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Meth Awareness Week Begins Sunday

DES MOINES – In an effort to combat the use of methamphetamine, the State's Drug Policy Coordinator is encouraging Iowans to participate in National Meth Awareness Week, which will be observed Sunday, November 30 through Saturday, December 6.

"Meth is a very addictive drug that continues to threaten the health and safety of Iowans, and Meth Awareness Week is a good time to remind children in particular of the importance of remaining free of meth and other drugs," said Steve Lukan, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

"Although Iowans have worked together to successfully and dramatically curb dangerous meth lab production in our state, we continue to see a large number of Iowans becoming hooked on this powerful drug," said Lukan. "Meth use can be devastating to those who use it, and it can tear families apart and put other members of a community at risk."

While citing a large drop in meth labs, to their lowest point in 17 years, Iowa law enforcement officials report larger and more potent supplies of meth being smuggled into the State. Approximately 64,000 grams of meth have been seized by law enforcement officers so far this year, the most in nine years. Substance abuse treatment admissions for meth last year comprised an all-time high of 14.8% of all publicly-funded treatment entries. Drug-related child abuse cases, involving children testing positive for drugs and present during meth production, rose to 1,334 last year, the highest level in five years. Also, meth reportedly was involved in more than half of Iowa's drug-related prison admissions last year.

"Because of the super-addictive nature of methamphetamine, preventing young Iowans from trying it in the first place is critical," said Lukan.

Meth Awareness Week is sponsored by the national Partnership for Drug-Free Kids. For more information on meth, including how to get help, go to www.Iowa.Gov/ODCP.

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